

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02133 141609Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 H-01 HA-05 AID-05 SS-15
NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SY-05
ICAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SSM-03 PM-05 SSO-00
/077 W

-----014658 141616Z /46

O 141520Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7629
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2133

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNRWA, LE, IS, SY
SUBJC VISIT OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS STAFF TO UNRWA AREA
OF OPERATIONS

REF: STATE 91777

1. UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL MCELHINEY HAS DRAFTED
FOLLOWING TELEGRAM IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL CONCERNING
PROPOSED VISIT OF MCCALL AND ASHWORTH TO UNRWA AREA OF
OPERATIONS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "AGREE PROGRAM FOR VISIT OF MCCALL AND
ASHWORTH TO UNRWA AREA OF OPERATIONS SHOULD BE COORDIN-
ATED WITH EACH CAPITAL ALONG LINES REQUESTED, BUT SUBJECT
TO FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHANGE TO SCHEDULE: BEIRUT, AFTER-
NOON APRIL 22 P.M. TO MORNING APRIL 24; DAMASCUS, APRIL 24
MID-MORNING TO APRIL 25 POST-LUNCH; AMMAN APRIL 25 LATE
AFTERNOON TO APRIL 27 MORNING; JERUSALEM LATE MORNING APRIL
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27 TO EARLY MORNING APRIL 29.

3. "REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGE IS SITUATION IN LEBANON
WHERE IN OPINION OF MCELHINEY PERSONAL SAFETY OF
INDIVIDUALS IS WORSE NOW THAN IN LATE 1975 AND DETER-
IORATING. MCELHINEY THEREFORE CONSIDERS THERE SHOULD
NOT BE ANY VISIT TO CAMPS ESPECIALLY AROUND SAIDA WHICH

PRESENTLY FILLED WITH DISPLACED REFUGEES FROM SOUTH LEBANON.
(EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY AGREES CAMPS SHOULD NOT BE VISITED.) EARLIER DEPARTURE FROM LEBANON WOULD PERMIT ADDITIONAL TIME OTHER FIELDS, WHERE CAN BE MORE PROFITABLY USED.

4. "WHOLE PROGRAM LEBANON SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON SECURITY SITUATION AT TIME OF ARRIVAL. TENTATIVELY FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS BEING PLANNED:

--SATURDAY 22 APRIL: SOME FORM OF WORKING GET-TOGETHER WITH AMBASSADOR, MCELHINEY AND PREVOT, BUT PROBABLY NOT DINNER. (EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS NOT SAFE TO TRAVEL AROUND BEIRUT AFTER DARK.)

--SUNDAY 23 MORNING: TWO SEPARATE BRIEFING SESSIONS UNRWA HEADQUARTERS AND UNRWA LEBANON FIELD OFFICE.

--WORKING LUNCH.

--SUNDAY AFTERNOON: BRIEFING AT EMBASSY. (EMBASSY COMMENT: IS THIS NECESSARY? AMBASSADOR WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE AVAILABLE), BUT OTHER OFFICERS CAN BE IF DESIRED.)

--MONDAY 24 APRIL EARLY MORNING: DEPARTURE FOR DAMASCUS BY ROAD.
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5. "IN DAMASCUS, AMMAN AND JERUSALEM, VISITS WILL BE ARRANGED TO UNRWA INSTALLATIONS, INCLUDING FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS CENTERS. CARE WILL BE TAKEN TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW AND AVOID REPETITION. DETAILED PROGRAM NOW BEING WORKED OUT WITH UNRWA FIELD OFFICE DIRECTORS. DIRECTOR OF UNRWA OPERATIONS GAZA WILL PARTICIPATE IN BRIEFING IN JERUSALEM.

6. "UNRWA FIELD OFFICE DIRECTORS WILL COORDINATE WITH EMBASSIES MEETINGS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IN TEL AVIV MEETINGS DESIRED WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS WILL HAVE TO BE ARRANGED BY EMBASSY.

7. "MCELHINEY WILL ACCOMPANY MCCALL AND ASHWORTH ON ALL FIELD VISITS UNLESS PREVENTED BY APPOINTMENTS. HE ATTEMPTING ARRANGE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY JEDDAH, TIMING OF WHICH OUT OF HIS CONTROL. HE WILL DEPART FROM JERUSALEM FOR BEIRUT VIA AMMAN AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY 28 APRIL.

8. "UNRWA WILL MAKE HOTEL BOOKINGS BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, AMMAN AND JERUSALEM, AND WILL PROVIDE ALL ROAD TRANSPORTA-

TION BEIRUT-JERUSALEM.

9. "DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSIES WHOULD ARRANGE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION TO FACILITATE TRAVEL, INCLUDING VISAS AND CLEARANCE OVER ALLENBY BRIDGE BETWEEN AMMAN AND JERUSALEM. NOTE: VISAS FOR LEBANON ARE NO LONGER GIVEN AT AIRPORT AND MUST BE OBTAINED IN WASHINGTON BEFORE DEPARTURE.

10. "MCCALL ANDASHWORTH REQUESTED TO CONFIRM URGENTLY PROPOSED CHANGE TO SCHEDULE IS ACCEPTABLE." END TEXT.

11. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: WE WOULD STILL PREFER THAT THESE GENTLEMEN NOT COME TO BEIRUT. SITUATION HERE IS UNSAFE AND WE CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SECURITY. CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY TRAVEL AT THEIR OWN RISK. PARKER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: OREP, LE, IS, SY, UNRWA, (MCCALL, RICHARD)
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